

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. 1887.

Owing to the lack of accommodation and the expiration of the lease of the rooms occupied for some time by the South Australian Caledonian Society in Marshall Chambers, Rundle-street, the Society, which has been in existence for about six years and boasts of a membership of about 500 ladies and gentlemen, has taken on lease for three years several rooms in Globe Chambers, Victoria-square west. The rooms include two spacious halls, Secretary's office, retiring and reading rooms, and three rooms for the hallkeeper, who will reside on the premises. The large hall, which overlooks the square, and from which a magnificent view of the hills can be obtained, is capable of seating 500 or even more people, and the smaller hall provides seating accommodation for about 200 persons. Both halls, which lead into each other, are suitable for dancing and socials, and they will be used for meetings, concerts, and other entertainments. The main hall is decorated with pictures and paintings and has a convenient entrance. The first monthly meeting of the members for the year was held in the new rooms on Tuesday evening, January 18. The Chief (Hon. J. H. Howe, M.P.) presided over a small attendance. Six gentlemen were admitted as members of the Society, one to be a life member. Mr. D. NICHOLSON referred to the advisability of having the Society incorporated. In moving "That the Society be incorporated and that the Executive be empowered to deal with the matter," he mentioned that it was once suggested to move in that question, but the exertions of the promoters were unsuccessful. Rapid strides had been made by the Society since its inauguration, and it having now attained to a good position something should be done to incorporate it as early as possible. Dr. A. S. PATERSON, one of the Chieftains, seconded the proposition. There was hardly a Society in Adelaide worth designating a Society but what was not incorporated. Numerous advantages accrued from a Society being incorporated. It would be made more substantial, and instead of the Executive acting as guarantors the name of the Society itself would suffice. As the Society stood, the lease for the new suite of rooms would have to be signed by the officers forming the Executive, and in future years questions might arise that would prove difficult to settle owing to some of the members of the Executive ceasing to act. If incorporated the Society would, whenever called on, be able to dispose of matters without having entirely to refer to members

or officers who had become dissociated with the Society. It was unfortunate that the incorporation could not be done without expending a certain sum of money. The CHIEF thoroughly endorsed what the previous speakers had stated. The expense would not be more than about fifteen guineas, and the result would tend to make the Society better known. The motion was agreed to. Reference was made to the recent decease of Mr. Ewen Fraser, who was for some time Secretary of and took great interest in the Port Adelaide Branch of the Society, and it was decided, on the motion of Mr. D. W. GRAY, seconded by Mr. ORMISTON, "That the Secretary forward a letter of condolence to the relatives of the late Mr. Fraser in their bereavement." The CHIEF intimated that the Secretary (Mr. John Drummond) had forwarded his resignation of that office. He read a letter written by the Secretary, which stated that he had found it advisable to resign the office, as owing to his commercial duties he could not spare time to reasonably attend to the Secretaryship. He regretted the necessity of his resigning, and promised to further the objects of the Society, and to render as much assistance as possible to his successor. The CHIEF regretted too that Mr. Drummond had decided to relinquish the responsible duties of Secretary, which had been performed free of charge and in an efficient and manly way. It was not the time that evening to tender thanks to Mr. Drummond for his honorary services while Secretary, but he hoped that the Society would arrange for the expression of a special mark of appreciation. Mr. D. NICHOLSON spoke in terms of praise of Mr. Drummond's services to the Society, and other speakers followed. Mr. D. W. Gray, on being asked, consented to act as Secretary until a successor to Mr. Drummond was appointed. Mr. Drummond has occupied the Secretaryship for nine months, having succeeded Mr. S. J. McCallum, who removed from the colony in April last, and it was stated that although the sum of £50 was voted as an honorarium to the Secretary Mr. Drummond had willingly filled the position without accepting any money for his duties. Mr. FALLOW suggested that as the time had come when the Society was in a good financial position it would be well if the Secretary was paid for his services. He gave notice of motion to that effect for the next monthly meeting. On the proposition of Mr. J. MACDONALD, it was resolved "That the Executive be empowered to appoint a member to the office of Secretary to the end of the year." Arrangements were made for the Easter sports, and the meeting closed.